

Border

On March 26, 2021, NIH Director Francis Collins issued a call to NIH staff for volunteers to help unaccompanied children at the Southern border. Dr. Collins wrote "There is a very significant influx of unaccompanied children at our Southern border who are alone, scared, separated from family, and currently being housed by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in holding areas not meant for long-term use."

You rose to the call to help these children and, in turn, the United States. Now we would like to hear your impressions of your public service. This history-collection project, called Border Stories, intends to collect and preserve your thoughts about your service and any written or physical mementoes you might wish to share, with the goal of informing the future historical record. That is, we are collecting in the name of history and will not make your contributions public until a future date to be specified by the National Institutes of Health and the Administration for Children and Families.

What We Are Looking For

Your professional or personal experiences during your service at the border through HHS are unique and can be communicated in whatever way that you feel is fitting. For work-related content, you can submit as a team or a department. Some ideas include but are not limited to:

- Filling out the questionnaire
- Participating in a short virtual interview
- Videos or audio recordings that you have created
- Photographs
- 2D and 3D Artwork
- Blogs and social media posts
- Poetry, prose, essays, and journal entries
- Spreadsheets, presentations, and other work-related projects

Submit Your Story

Answer questions and submit digital files that document your experience with this [form](#). Answer as many or as few questions as you would like. Be sure to read the permission agreements at the end of the form.

[Submit Your Story](#)

Give a Short Interview Online

We have conducted virtual interviews with NIH staff who work in divisions across the organization. These interviews can be performed individually or with colleagues and team members. The written transcripts and related materials will be kept private and secure until NIH leadership permits their posting.

If you would like to do a short interview with us about your work, please contact

history@nih.gov

Donate Objects

Do you have physical items that capture your experience during your service? We are looking for artifacts such as clinical instruments or personal objects. Please contact Christopher Wanjek, Acting Director, Office of NIH History & Stetten Museum, at wanjek@od.nih.gov.

Terms and Permissions

- We are accepting submissions in languages other than English.
- Please do not include personal health information in your submissions for the privacy rights of those involved.
- Please be mindful of infringing on the intellectual property of others.
- We will acknowledge receipt of your submission.
- The Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum has the right to reject any submission or component of a submission that it considers duplicative, inappropriate, or outside the scope of the project.
- There is no deadline to submit materials. We estimate that the submission element of this project will last through 2022.
- Submissions will not be accessible immediately for public viewing. After we process and curate the materials, we will maintain the files privately and securely until NIH leadership permits their posting or release for historic scholarship.
- If you have concerns about maintaining your privacy, questions regarding sensitivity to information disclosed, or dissatisfaction with the way your submission is represented online, please reach out to Christopher Wanjek, Acting Director, Office of NIH History & Stetten Museum, at wanjek@od.nih.gov

Contact for More Information

If you have questions about how your submission would fit into our repository, accessibility requirements, or need technical assistance, please contact Christopher Wanjek, Acting Director, Office of NIH History & Stetten Museum, at wanjek@od.nih.gov.